D1.1 Understanding of the distribution quantities and types of marine litter

The report aims to review the current state of information and understanding in the distribution, quantities and types of marine litter in European Seas. It combines a traditional review of published literature with a survey amongst national partners of monitoring or survey and assessment activities in EU Member States. The literature review provides representative examples of the effects of litter on the marine and coastal environment, illustrating regional differences. It also considers potential negative ecological and socio-economic impacts of marine litter. This report provides a summary of national surveys by from official monitoring, NGOs or local authorities and R&D activities by MSFD regions. It also shows the type of environmental compartments included in such surveys indicating the point of contact or relevant link to find further details. The report outlines limitations and gaps in the current state of knowledge and highlights some popular misconceptions relating to marine litter.

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